

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by John Engen, CGCS, Butte Creek C.C., Chico

Congratulations, Sohan, for the excellent meeting we had at Mt Diablo. Everything was just great--golf course was in tip-top shape, facilities, luncheon and the courtesy shown to all of us was superb.

Dr. Vic Gibeault did his usual good job presenting us with an interesting and enlightening educational session.

Remember the GCSA of America conference in Portland, Oregon is just around the corner. Now is the time to be thinking of any input you might want to have considered in the Advisory Committee. Contact any board member or better still come to our board meeting and discuss the items so they can be sent in to be on the agenda.

The Superintendents Institute at Asilomar is going to be held January 9 to 14th. Be sure to send in your reservation right away to Bill Davis, Dept. of Environmental Horticulture, University of California, Davis, CA 95616. I feel confident that there will be a full complement of superintendents this year and possibly some turned away.

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Norm Stewart, Contra Costa C.C., Pleasanton, summarizes Dr. Vic Gibeault's talk on the Effects of California Drought on Golf Courses.

Many counties this summer were affected by a severe water shortage. California may be faced with a shortage of water in the near future and placed on a limited water usage program

Saving water through efficient water control, some basic methods of approach:

1. When to irrigate
2. Amount of irrigation
3. Frequency of irrigation
4. Water Run off (lost water)
5. Relieve soil compaction due to heavy compaction thatch build up
6. Sun vs. Shade
7. Keep out weeds
8. Reduce use of high N fertilizers especially in summer
9. Know your soil type Sandy - Loam - Clay

There are 5 practices that should be considered. Let's call this our Year Round Management.

1. Mowing - Cool season grasses
Mowing height is very important to the species that you are concerned with. Raise the height of cut, for greater root development, better food distribution, more blade surface per plant
2. Fertilization - Cut down on fertilizer applications especially N with high N materials. You will receive more top growth and no root development.